

## Patent claims

1. A PEM fuel cell which comprises at least two  
terminal plates which clamp in a membrane which,  
5 apart from the outermost edge, is covered on both  
sides by an electrode layer, the covering of the  
membrane with at least one electrode layer  
projecting into the structural edge region of the  
fuel cell.
- 10 2. The PEM fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, in which  
in the edge region seals are arranged between the  
membrane and the frame element.
- 15 3. A method for operating a PEM fuel cell, in which  
the formation of product water in the structural  
edge region of the fuel cell is utilized to wet  
the membrane.
- 20 4. A fuel cell storage battery which is made from  
fuel cells which are electrically series-connected  
and comprises a stack of at least two fuel cells  
as claimed in one of claims 1 ~~to 3~~ which are  
mechanically connected to one another.

1075554-07244  
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